

CREPUSCULAR HABIT OF ANOPLOCEPHALUS CRIBRIFRONS

(SCARABAEIDAE:DYNASTINAE)

On August 1, 1952, Mr. J. W. Green and I were camped at the end of the road up Madera Canyon, at 6,000 feet in the Santa Rita Mountains, central northern Santa Cruz County, Arizona. Just at dusk one of us (H.B.L.) was seated in a glade a quarter of a mile above the camp, staring hopefully at a juniper tree outlined against the sky, in case a *Plusiotis gloriosa* was about.

Suddenly there was a hurried scratching amongst dead leaves at the foot of a nearby ash, the whirr of a heavy beetle flying, and a light thud as it landed on the tree about eight feet above the ground. The flashlight beam picked out a dark brown scarabaeid running quickly up and down the trunk. Soon it was joined by others, some of which seemed to come from the litter at the base of the tree. The beetles were constantly active, taking flight and returning. They stayed out of reach, yet readily tumbled into a net held over or just below them. Considering their rather heavy and typical scarabaeid form, the interesting thing was the speed at which they ran up and down and around on the vertical tree trunk. No doubt their remarkably long slender tarsi are very suitable for this activity. Of the 14 taken on this tree in a period of 20 minutes, only one was a female; the entire flight and activity lasted but half an hour. Although a Coleman lantern was set upon a white sheet immediately afterwards, not one of them was attracted to it. They were identified as *Anoplocephalus cribrifrons*.

Anoplocephalus cribrifrons was described as a new genus and species by Schaeffer (1906. Trans. American Ent. Soc., 32:259-260), with the locality "Huachuca Mts., Arizona." The California Academy of Sciences collection contains 4 males labeled Huachuca Mts., Ariz., C. R. Biederman; 4 males, Huachuca Mts., Ariz., July 5 to 19, 1912, J. R. Slevin; 1 female, Ramsey Cn., Huachuca Mts., Ariz., July 20, 1912, J. R. Slevin; 1 male, Miller Can., Huachuca Mt., Ariz., July 1910, H. A. Wenzel. Biederman lived for some 40 years, starting in the 1880's, in Carr Canyon (his land and old house are now owned by Major Haley). In 1912 Mr. Slevin was camped in nearby Ramsey Canyon, just to the north; he tells me he often walked over to visit Biederman, and collected with him.

In addition the Academy has 5 males, 1 female, from the Chiricahua Mountains, [Cochise County], collected on various dates during July and early August, 1908 and 1916, by V. W. Owen; and 1 male labeled Phoenix, [Maricopa County], R. E. Kunze. In series the specimens from the three isolated mountain ranges differ in facies, and males can be separated by minor characters of the genitalia. Material from other mountains in southern Arizona, and presumably from adjacent Mexico and New Mexico, may show that definable subspecies are involved. It is peculiar that of the 31 examples recorded above only three are females. The fact that one was taken with the males on the ash tree at Madera Canyon shows that both sexes have the same habit; perhaps females are more numerous a little later in the season.

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